

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SINGAP 03852 290856Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----001734 292309Z /66
R 290813Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0965

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 3852

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PPDC
SUBJECT: SINGAPORE PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT ON MIDDLE EAST
REF: STATE 205986

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY INFORMS US THAT A LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT
FROM PRIME MINISTER LEE KUAN YEW RESPONDING TO THE PRESIDENT'S
AUGUST 15 LETTER ON THE MIDDLE EAST WAS TRANSMITTED TO THE
SINGAPORE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON ON AUGUST 28 FOR DELIVERY TO
THE WHITE HOUSE. IN THE EVENT THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT YET
RECEIVED THIS MESSAGE, THE TEXT IS AS FOLLOWS:

QUOTE -- 28 AUGUST 78

MR. JIMMY CARTER
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT

THANK YOU FOR YOUR MESSAGE ON THE MIDDLE EAST.
ONE WILL NEED THE WISDOM OF A SOLOMON TO RESOLVE A
DISPUTE WHERE RIGHTS AND WRONGS ARE SO FINELY
BALANCED THAT JUSTICE FOR ONE MAY BE SEEN TO
BE INJUSTICE TO THE OTHER.

THE PRESENT IMPASSE IN THE PEACE NEGOTIA-
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TIONS CAN ONLY BE BROKEN BY THE UNITED STATES.
YOUR BOLD AND IMAGINATIVE MOVE TO GET PRESI-
DENT SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN TO MEET
YOU AT CAMP DAVID CAN BE A TURNING POINT IN
THIS LONG AND TRAGIC STALEMATE. IF THE
UNITED STATES CAN TAKE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE, THE
CHANCES OF A BREAKTHROUGH WILL INCREASE.

THE PRIMARY CONCERN OF THE ISRAELIS IS SECURITY. THEIR CONCERN IS A LEGITIMATE ONE AS THERE ARE STILL ARAB STATES COMMITTED TO THE ULTIMATE DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL. THE ONLY COUNTRY WHICH CAN ASSURE SUPPLIES OF WEAPONS FOR ISRAEL'S SECURITY IS THE UNITED STATES.

THE QUESTION IS WHETHER THE ISRAELIS CAN BE CONVINCED THAT THE INCREASED RISK TO THEIR SECURITY IS WORTH THE TAKING, FOR ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE TO RETURN MOST OF THE OCCUPIED LANDS, THEY WILL GET IN RETURN A FORMAL PEACE WHICH HAS ELUDED THEM FOR DECADES. THE ALTERNATIVE TO TAKING THIS RISK TOWARDS PEACE IS THE CERTAINTY OF FURTHER AND BIGGER WARS.

THERE ARE DIFFICULT PROBLEMS TO RESOLVE. BUT THEY PALE INTO INSIGNIFICANCE COMPARED WITH THOSE THAT WOULD EMERGE SHOULD PRESIDENT SADAT'S INITIATIVE BE JUDGED BY MODERATE EGYPTIANS AND MODERATE ARABS AS AN EXERCISE IN FUTILITY RIGHT FROM THE VERY START.

I DO NOT SEE ANOTHER ARAB LEADER, FOR MANY
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DECADES TO COME, ATTEMPTING TO REPEAT WHAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAS DONE.

YOUR INITIATIVE IN CALLING FOR THE MEETING AT CAMP DAVID IS THEREFORE TIMELY. I FERVENTLY HOPE THAT THE PEACE PROCESS WILL BE GIVEN FRESH IMPETUS AT CAMP DAVID.

WITH BEST WISHES,
SINCERELY,
LEE KUAN YEW -- UNQUOTE
KNEIP

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION ADDED PER S/S-O - MS DEE ROBINSON.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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